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COUNTRY: PALESTINE

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SUBJECT: Views of the Fufti; Desire for British Mestrality

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Palestine

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ws of the Mufti esire for British neutralit

The following remarks were made by the Mufti on May 14th in conversation with an exporienced Arab source.

- The Musti declared that he attached (1)little importance to the decisions of U.N.O. and considered that the Palestine question should be settled in Palestine by the Arab countries.
- (ii) He had instructed the Arab delogatos at U.N.O. to try to work with Great Britain and to porsuade the British to remain neutral in the struggle botween the Arabs and the Jews.
- (iii) The Palestinian Arabs, assisted by the Arab States, would be able to settle the question themselves by direct dealing with the Jews, without resert to force or to money. All that was required was that the British should not interfere or protect the dealers.

 (iv) The Mufti intimated that he was and hoping shortly to publish a declaration in which he was been would refute, by means of new documents which he was been
- would refute, by means of new documents which he was to about to obtain, what he described as the false accusations spread by the Jows about his alleged pro-Axis activities during the war.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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KEL-3950

COUNTRY Palestine

DATE:

INFO. 14 May 1947

SUBJECT Statements of the Grand Muftl. on Palestine

DIST. 10 June 1947

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SUPPLEMENT

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SOURCE W; Arab informant.

- The Grand Mufti of Jerusalem is reported to have stated that he believes that the United Nations' decisions concerning Palestine are unimportant and that the Palestine question should be settled in Palestine by the Arab countries.
- 2. The Mafti is stated to have instructed the Arab delegates to the United Nations to try to persuade Great Britain to remain neutral in the Arab-Jevish struggle. He declared that the Arabe could settle the question, without force or funds, directly with the Jews, if the British did not interfere.
- In addition, the bufti is alleged to have intimated that, in the near future, evidence that the Jews had falsely accused him of pro-axis war activities would be published.

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